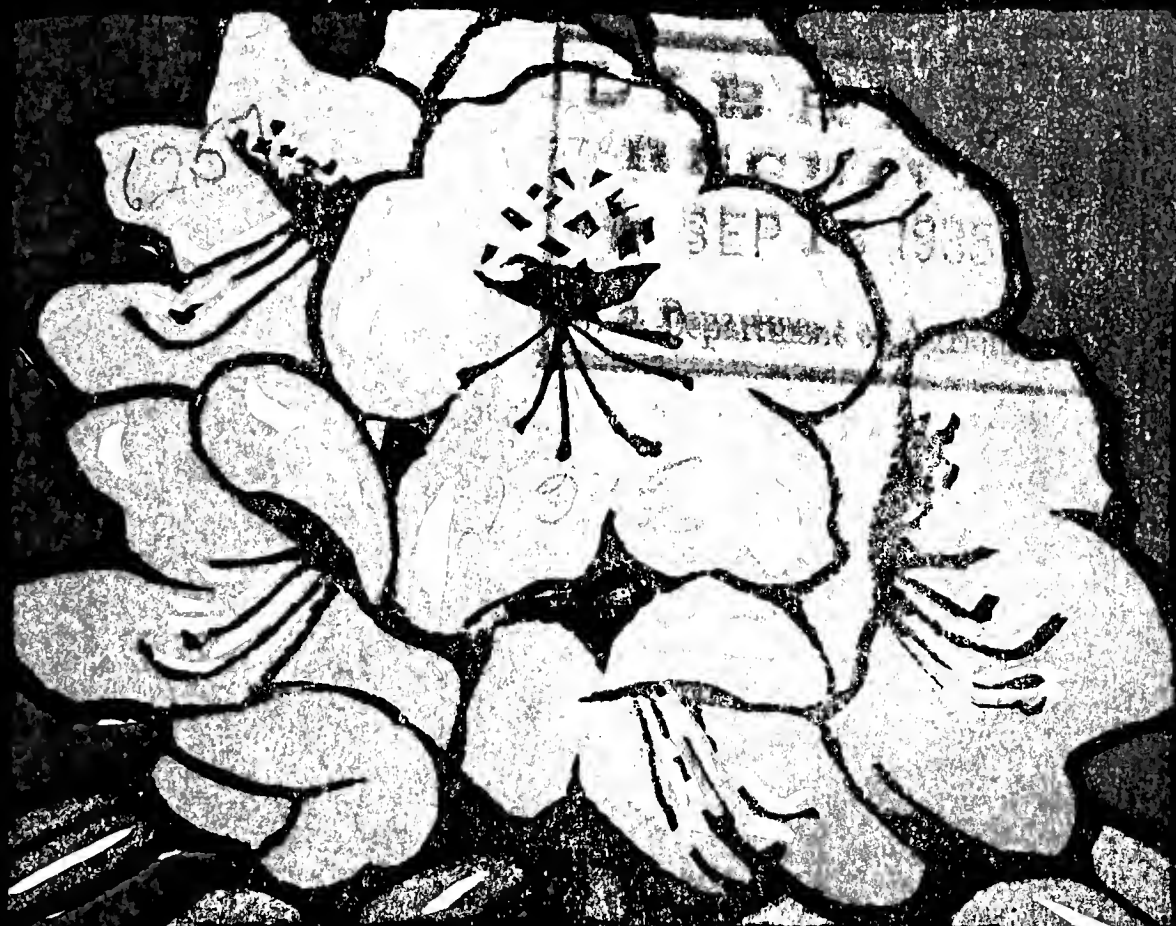


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RHODO- DENDRONS



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Ridgewood, New Jersey

The printing of the catalog has been so greatly delayed that these preliminary proofs are sent you now, asking your indulgence until the complete catalog is ready.

DWARF AND PIGMY RHODODENDRONS

For the Rock Garden

From Tibet and western China come alpine Rhododendrons, some not more than 3 or 4 inches tall, which, once their needs are understood, should be favorite subjects for the rock garden. Even those described as 3 or 4 feet high are often natural mid-gets, easily kept small by exposure to the sun.

Most of the Asiatic species have been discovered and introduced in the last dozen or twenty years, and are still virtually unknown to American gardeners. Explorers still brave the perils of vast regions never before penetrated by a white man, to gather the seeds, and most of the plants here listed were raised direct from the seeds thus sought out in the mountain wastes of Asia.

The species show astonishing variety in form and habit. Their colors range through shades of purple, violet, mauve, lavender, pink, yellow, white, and nearly blue.

While it is too soon to lay down definite rules for cultivation of all the dwarfs, the following situations have been found most suitable: moraine, pool edge or stream bank down within a few inches of the water, a perpetually wet bank or slope, a damp ravine opening north. The ground must never dry out, and if possible the roots should be able to reach trickling or standing water.

The soil must be acid, the water free from lime. A mixture of stony gravel and acid peat, about half and half, is ideal. After planting, pack in a close mulch of stones averaging the size of an egg or more.

Most of the species, when their roots can reach water, revel in full sun, or just the shadow of a rock to the south. Others do better with more shade, as noted later.

In general they prefer full exposure to heat and cold, snow and rain, but not too much wind. Don't cover them. Use no lime, bonemeal, ashes, or any chemical fertilizer!

The plants may be set out any time in Spring up to the first of June, or during August and September. But rather than set them out in late Fall, they should be wintered in a moist, shaded bed of peat, but not covered or mulched.

In addition to the Rhododendrons here described are many more of equal or even greater interest, some too rare and scarce, others too newly introduced for inclusion now. This catalog will soon be enlarged and the scarce Rhododendrons will be increased by cuttings as rapidly as possible. Meanwhile their names will be found listed on the last couple of pages. Collectors of rare plants or others specially interested are invited to write for details.

RHODODENDRON CHRYSANTHUM. Unlike most of the species to follow, *R. chrysanthum* looks exactly like the familiar garden Rhododendrons, except that it never grows up, adding only about an inch a year, and usually falling over before it has attained many inches. It bears 5 to 8 pale yellow flowers in the cluster, yellow being a most unusual color among hardy Rhododendrons.

Discovered in the Siberian mountains about 1776, it has been considered too difficult to grow in England, but this new lot of seed from Corea is giving plants amazingly hardy and adaptable in this country. They do best in the moraine, but will tolerate a rather dry soil in shade if required.

Thus far these plants, 3 years old and only 2 or 3 inches high, show wonderful promise.

2 to 3 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

The LAPPONICUM Rhododendrons, so-called because related to *R. lapponicum*, an arctic species, have very small leaves, in some a mere quarter of an inch long, always evergreen but drooping and curling in very cold weather.

Though from the snow line, most of them can be made to thrive and bloom at sea level, the main display about May, then an occasional flower or two throughout the season until frost. The secret of success is water --- a wet soil well drained. Some expect a little shade, but to flower properly most of them need full sun, and are not in the least afraid of heat if kept sopping.

(Stars, where mentioned, refer to ratings given by the Rhododendron Association, England, with 4 the maximum. Some of the newer introductions are not yet rated.)

RHODODENDRON ACHROANTHUM, from an area along the upper Yangtze, grows into a shrub-let with very short twigs, and with leaves less than an inch long. Found in nature on open cliffs, it appears to prefer the open here, with plenty of moisture. In the moraine it has endured uninjured 100 degrees above and 25 below zero. Flowers in 3s a dull, deep magenta red.

4 to 8 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

RHODODENDRON CANTABILE. 4 stars. Larger, to 3 feet, with leaves an inch long. Flowers dark

violet, about 10 in a globe-shaped cluster and borne freely. It grows in open ground and on cliffs in far western China, and should be hardy in the open here, but through an oversight was not sufficiently tested in the sun. It winters fairly in half shade.

6 to 8 inches high in 3-inch pots

85 cents each

RHODODENDRON DRUMONIUM. A small, tufted shrub usually less than one foot high, discovered recently in open, stony places north of the upper Yangtze. Leaves a quarter of an inch long, flowers, one at the tip of each twig, commonly a bright mauve, but in 1932, far to the north, Dr. J. F. Rock found a deep blue variety, No. 25377, and from this seed all the plants here were raised. The seedlings which have bloomed are blue or lavender.

Grows in the moraine in full sun without regard to heat or cold and barely rises from the ground. Its dwarf habit and neat, crisp winter foliage make *Rhododendron drumonium* most desirable.

4 to 6 inches long in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

RHODODENDRON IMPEDITUM. 3 stars. Low shrublet from very high mountains in west China. Leaves about half an inch long, flowers mauve or pale purplish blue, single or 2 together on each of the many short twigs. *R. impeditum* is considered one of the hardest *Lapponicums*, already well test-

ed and thriving in many rock gardens. Needs rather less moisture and more shade than its relatives.

6 to 8 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

RHODODENDRON MULIENSE. 2 stars. The Muli Mountain Lapponicum, a shrub to 2 feet with leaves half an inch long and bright yellow flowers, 5 or 6 in each cluster. Coming from open, rocky mountainsides in southwest Szechuan, it should be as hardy as *R. drumonium*, but has not yet proved itself here. It likes full sun in wet soil.

4 to 6 inches high in 3-inch pots

\$1.00 each

RHODODENDRON ORTHOCLADUM. 3 stars. A shrub with half-inch leaves, and mauve flowers borne 1 to 3 at the ends of the straight branches. Very hardy and vigorous, if plenty of moisture is provided, thriving best in the moraine in full sun. In its native Yunnan highlands it flourishes on cliffs of limestone, but probably will not endure even a suggestion of lime here under our light rainfall, preferring highly acid peat. Its narrow leaves keep their shape and bronze-green color well throughout the winter.

6 to 9 inches high in 3-inch pots

\$1.00 each

RHODODENDRON PYCNOCLADUM (diacritum)
A matted shrublet with quarter-inch leaves, found

on cliffs in western China. Flowers one at the tip of each twig, dark blue in this strain, Rock 23317, though typically deep rose-purple with a white throat. While not yet thoroughly tested, it grows well, and small plants set out in September looked hardy after a winter in the open moraine.

4 to 6 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

RHODODENDRON RAMOSISSIMUM So newly introduced from the moorlands of Tachienlu that no rating has yet been given it, this species now makes its bow under Dr. Rock's number 23310. He found it 12 to 18 inches high with quarter-inch leaves and blue flowers, varying from the original type somewhat larger with dark purple flowers. It wintered successfully in and near the moraine.

4 to 6 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

RHODODENDRON RAVUM. Unlike the other Lapponicums listed here, and of larger growth, as much as 4 feet high, yet dwarf enough for the rock garden, at least until very old. Leaves about an inch long and more than half an inch broad, pointed at both ends, flowers deep rose, 4 or 5 in each cluster. Originally from the upper Yangtze country, it has been grown in England, but is new here. A

small plant wintered in sun in the rock garden near the moraine, where the ground is not very wet. It has had no other trial here.

4 to 6 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

RHODODENDRON WEBSTERIANUM. Another so newly introduced that it has no rating. As much as 3 feet high, but slow growing. The color of this variety, Rock 25370, is given as blue, which will be better than the previously discovered form described as rosy purple, though the Lapponicum tints are in pastel shades and none bad. Coming from the moorlands of western Szechuan, *R. Websterianum* ought to be hardy, and several seedlings set in the moraine in September, wintered well.

3 to 5 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

Other Dwarf Rhododendrons

The Lapponicum Series is the largest of several more or less similar groups of dwarf or semi-dwarf Rhododendrons, characterized by scales just large enough to be seen without a glass, which dot stems, leaves, and often flowers. Such scales are found also on our native *R. carolinianum* and other species too big for the rock garden, and are probably a protection against sunburn.

RHODODENDRON CEPHALANTHOIDES, of the Cephalanthum Series, resembles certain of the Lapponicums in its Daphne-like foliage, and has also Daphne-like flowers, while those of the Lapponicums favor Azalea. Grows on dry ledges and in clefts of limestone cliffs in western China, but seems partial to a wet, peaty moraine here. Small plants wintered in sun without injury. Blossoms white with yellow tube.

4 to 6 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

RHODODENDRON SALUENENSE. 3 stars. A shrublet of the Saluenense Series with large flowers for the size of the plant, nearly 2 inches across, in 2s and 3s, saucer-shaped, deep purple-crimson with darker markings. Leaves evergreen like the Lapponicums, but distinct in shape and texture. Found on cliffs and boulders in west China, it takes kindly to a moraine or sunny wet bank, seeming both hardy and thrifty in its small way. One of the most promising rock garden species.

3 to 5 inches high in 3-inch pots

\$1.00 each

RHODODENDRON RACEMOSUM. 4 stars. Introduced to cultivation about 1900, and already known to American gardens, it is hardy in a sheltered position, requiring some shade and good drainage,

not the sopping wet condition preferred by most Lapponicums. Belonging to still another series, the *Virgatum*, it has leaves the size of your thumbnail, dark green above, shining white beneath, all smothered in bright pink bloom about the first of May. The faded flowers should be cut away to keep this species in health. Some forms grow only a foot or so high, and it is from small plants that this lot was propagated.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 6 to 8 inches high in 3-inch pots | 65 cents each |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 8 to 12 inches high in 4 inch pots | \$1.00 each |
|------------------------------------|-------------|

RHODODENDRON PUBESCENS. 3 stars: *Scabrifolium* Series. From thickets in the Muli Mountains of western Szechuan. Resembles *R. racemosum* in a general way, but with more slender and open habit, and the narrower leaves are densely covered with upright hairs. Flowers small, bright rose. So recently introduced that in 1930 the color was not known to science. It prefers to hang gracefully over a steep rock, rather than grow straight, and needs both shade and shelter if it is to thrive and winter its flower buds. Moist but not wet soil.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 6 to 8 inches high in 3-inch pots | \$1.00 each |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 8 to 12 inches high in 4-inch pots | \$1.50 each |
|------------------------------------|-------------|

RHODODENDRON HEMITRICHOTUM. 3 stars.

Closely related to *R. pubescens*, but with few or no hairs on the leaf, which appears to be covered with a fine down, and has an odd pinkish cast in winter. The shell-pink flowers, red tipped in bud, wreathed over a gray rock, strike a delightful color harmony. Needs a cool, damp, sheltered recess, where, like *R. pubescens*, aided by a lot of snow or a little luck, it may winter its buds and so more than justify any trouble it may have caused.

6 to 8 inches high in 4-inch pots

\$1.25 each

RHODODENDRON TRICHOCLADUM. An odd, Azalea-like species, dropping in winter its leaves of pale green, and flowering yellow with green spots. Comes from the Tali Range in Yunnan and northward. Though reasonably hardy with some shade and shelter, it has not yet bloomed here.

4 to 6 inches high in 3-inch pots

75 cents each

6 to 8 inches high in 4-inch pots

\$1.00 each

The Dwarf **TRIFLORUM** Rhododendrons grow small enough for the rock garden, though some other Triflorums may become large shrubs. Most of them look rather like Azaleas but tend to be evergreen, and grow vigorously even in soils not strongly acid.

RHODODENDRON AMBIGUUM. One star. An introduction of E. H. Wilson from western Szechuan about 1900, fully evergreen, with leaves an inch or two long and yellow flowers spotted green. Hardy at 20 degrees below zero with part shade and shelter from the wind, but may lose its flower buds in extreme cold.

6 to 8 inches high in 3-inch pots 60 cents each

8 to 12 inches high in 4-inch pots 90 cents each

RHODODENDRON HORMOPHORUM. A shrub a couple of feet high losing nearly all its leaves in winter, but keeping its buds well. From the Muli Mountains and a climate not too unlike ours, it is hardy in a little shade, and bud-hardy too. Flowers rather small and late, in late May or June, white to rose pink with brown markings.

8 to 12 inches high in 4-inch pots \$1.00 each

RHODODENDRON KEISKII. 2 stars. Low, compact shrub from Japan and Corea. Leaves fully evergreen, bronze when young, flowers clear yellow in May. Hardy on a north slope, evidently preferring the shade of rocks to that of trees, but buds suffer in severe weather. A fine dwarf if well placed.

6 to 8 inches high in 3-inch pots 75 cents each

8 to 12 inches high in 4-inch pots \$1.00 each

RHODODENDRON SPECIES

Under Test at Ridgewood

Many of the following Rhododendrons cannot be recommended for use in gardens until more is learned about their habits. Others, represented by only a plant or two, must first be multiplied. Still others await the printing of their section of the complete catalog. Collectors and experimenters please write for particulars.

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| achroanthum | Baileyi | calophytum |
| adenogynum | Bainbridgeanum | caloxanthum |
| adenophorum | Balfourianum | camelliaeflorum |
| adenopodum | barbatum | campanulatum |
| aechmophyllum | basilicum | campylocarpum |
| aeruginosum | Beesianum | cantabile |
| aganniphum | blepharocalyx | carolinianum |
| agglutinatum | Bodinieri | cephalanthoides |
| ambiguum | brachycarpum | chaetomallum |
| Amesiae | brevistylum | chameunum |
| arizelum | bullatum | charianthum |
| Aucklandii | Bureavii | chartophyllum |
| Augustinii | bureavioides | chasmanthum |
| auriculatum | californicum | chrysanthum |
| ciliatum | cyanocarpum | eclecteum |
| cinnabarinum | dasycladum | eriogynum |
| citriniflorum | Davidsonianum | erubescens |
| Clementinae | decorum | euanthum |
| coccinopeplum | desquamatum | Falconeri |
| concinnum | detonsum | Fargesii |
| coriaceum | diacritum | fastigiatum |
| coryphaeum | dictyotum | Fauriei |
| cosmetum | discolor | ferrugineum |
| crinigerum | dolerum | fictolacteum |
| croceum | drumonium | flavidum |
| cucullatum | dryophyllum | flavorufum |

floccigerum
formosum
Fortunei
fulgens
fulvistrum
fulvodes
fulvum
glaphyrum
glaucum
Griffithianum
habrotrichum
haemaleum
heliolepis
helvolum
hemitrichotum
heptamerum

mulienae
neriiflorum
niphargum
oreodoxa
oreotrepes
orthocladum
pagophilum
paradoxum
phaeochrysum
pholidotum
pleistanthum
poecilodermum

Smirnowi
Souliei
sperabile
sphaeroblastum
suberosum
telmateium
temenium

himertum
hippophaeoides
hirsutum
Hodgsonii
hormophorum
Hunnewellianum
hypolepidotum
impeditum
intricatum
irroratum
Keiskii
Keysii
Kotschy
lacteum
lampropeplum
lanatum

ponticum
proteoides
Przewalskii
pubescens
pyncnocladum
racemosum
ramosissimum
ravum
recurvum
rex
rhaibocarpum
rigidum

tephropeplum
Thomsonii
timeteum
Traillianum
trichocladum
triflorum
Valentinianum

lepidotum
leucopetalum
levistratum
linearifolium
litiense
lochmium
lutescens
manipurense
megeratum
mekongense
Metternichii
micranthum
minus
Morii
moupinense
mucronulatum

rubiginosum
russatum
saluenense
sanguinem
schizopeplum
scintillans
Searsiae
selense
semibarbatum
setosum
siderophyllum
sigillatum

vernicosum
Wallichii
Wardii
Wasonii
Websterianum
yunnanense

